

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Previously Presented) Precipitated calcium carbonate having a secondary particle diameter of 1 to 10 μm and consisting of flocculated primary particles of spindle-shaped calcium carbonate having a long diameter of 0.5 to 3.0 μm , a short diameter of 0.1 to 1.0 μm and an aspect ratio of 3 or more, wherein the BET specific surface area is in the range of 8 to 20 m^2/g , and the pore volume is in the range of 1.5 to 3.5 cm^3/g .

2. (Currently Amended) A method for producing precipitated calcium carbonate, wherein carbon dioxide or carbon dioxide containing gas is blown into a calcium hydroxide slurry having a calcium hydroxide concentration of 100 to 400 g/L obtained by wet slaking calcined lime whose 4 N hydrochloric acid activity (value at 3 minutes) is adjusted to 150 to 400 mL ~~for reaction to allow them to react~~ until the carbonation rate is 50 to 85% by volume of the calcium hydroxide slurry is added, and carbon dioxide or carbon dioxide containing gas is then introduced ~~further blown in~~ to terminate the reaction.

3. (Original) Precipitated calcium carbonate manufactured by the producing method according to Claim 2.

4. (Currently Amended) The precipitated calcium carbonate according to Claim 3, wherein the BET specific surface area is in the range of 8 to 20 m^2/g , and the pore volume is in the range of 1.5 to 3.5 cm^3/g .

5. (Currently Amended) A filler for loading paper, which contains the precipitated calcium carbonate according to Claim 1 ~~any one of Claims 1, 3 and 4~~.

6. (Original) A loaded paper, which contains the filler for loading paper according to Claim 5.

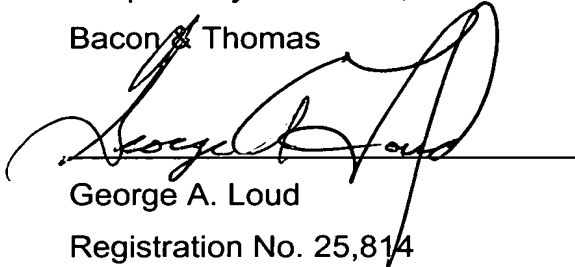
7. (Original) A loaded paper, which contains 5 to 50 parts by weight of the filler for loading paper according to Claim 5 based on pulp material as 100 parts by weight.

8. (New) A filler for loading paper, which contains the precipitated calcium carbonate according to Claim 3.

9. (New) A filler for loading paper, which contains the precipitated calcium carbonate according to Claim 4.

Respectfully submitted,

Bacon & Thomas

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George A. Loud", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with a large, looping initial "G".

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